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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 005456

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP, EAP/MLS, EAP/RSP  
DEFENSE FOR OSD/ISA (POWERS)  
NSC FOR MORROW  
PACOM FOR FPA HUSO

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [MARR](#) [MASS](#) [TH](#)

SUBJECT: MFA PROPOSES NOVEMBER 7 AND 8 FOR STRATEGIC  
DIALOGUE

REF: BANGKOK 5366

Classified By: Ambassador Ralph L. Boyce. Reason 1.4 (a and d)

1. (C) MFA PermSec Krit Garnjana-Goonchorn told the Ambassador on August 24 that the RTG looks forward to our upcoming Dialogue to discuss security matters. Krit confirmed that he will head the Thai delegation for the Dialogue and that other Ministries, including the military and NSC, will be represented. Krit formally suggested the Dialogue be held in Bangkok on November 7 and 8 and asked whether Washington could agree to those dates.

2. (C) Krit suggested that any joint statement issued after the upcoming September 19 bilateral meeting between PM Thaksin Shinawatra and the President make mention of Thaksin's pledge to set into motion an "Action Plan" to strengthen the bilateral relationship and highlight the Dialogue as a key part of that Action Plan. Krit suggested that an "Action Plan" could be virtually anything that we wanted it to be and suggested that discussion of additional ways to strengthen the bilateral relationship would be a good topic for the Dialogue.

3. (C) MFA DG for American Affairs Nongnuth Phetcharatana noted our need to now coordinate an agenda for the Dialogue. She indicated that, in addition to the agenda topics discussed in reftel, the Thai would like to discuss seeking a possible MOA on defense procurement modeled after the recent MOA between the United States and Australia. She also asked that we use MFA's North American Affairs Division and the Embassy as the conduit for setting the final agenda.

4. (C) In an aside with PolOff, Nongnuth suggested that the MOA would ideally help Thai private companies bid on U.S. defense contracts and serve as a tangible way to demonstrate benefits of Thailand's designation as a Major Non NATO Ally (MNNA). Nongnuth also said that, contrary to her suggestions outlined in reftel, the RTG may not have any problem with our designating the talks a "Strategic Dialogue." She asked for a few days to consult with other parts of her Government to arrive at a coordinated position on the name.  
BOYCE